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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No.: 064951/0147/SP01-050

Applicant: Monica K. Davis et al.

Appl. No.: 09/821,474

Examiner: J. Derrington

Filing Date: March 30, 2001

Art Unit: 1731

Title: METHOD FOR MAKING PHOTSENSITIVE FIBER SUITABLE FOR
WAVELENGTH STABILIZATION GRATINGS

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in reply to the Office Action dated November 26, 2002.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,426,129 ("Matsumura"). The Examiner asserts that the use of vacuum as disclosed in Matsumura can be interpreted to be a positive pressure. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for at least the following reasons.

Research has shown that collapsing under a slight **negative** pressure (vacuum) often leads to ovality of the fibers and an increase in defects. In the present case, the Applicants have determined that it is desirable to collapse under a **positive** pressure (see page 4, lines 30-31 of the specification). By collapsing with a positive pressure (pressure greater than atmospheric pressure), the present invention allows for (but does not require) making preforms and fibers with reduced ovality and fewer defects.

Independent claim 1 recites a "method of making a preform for an enhanced photosensitive fiber" that includes, *inter alia*, the step of "collapsing the successive layers of

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